



Prutehi Litekyan - Save Ritidian

A Direct Action Group

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Guam Historic
Resources Division

September 3, 2019

To: Mr. Patrick Lujan
Guam State Historic Preservation Officer

Håfa Adai SHPO Lujan,

Despite the community opposition, 15,000 signatures against the range complex and two resolutions passed that call for a pause on range construction, the destruction continues in Northern Guam. The attached image was provided to members of Prutehi Litekyan: Save Ritidian over the weekend. It is an aerial photo taken days ago showing the clearing of land in the shape of the proposed firing ranges. The Department of Defense continues to ignore requests from our leaders and the voices of the people, demonstrating that they have no reservations about continuing the erasure of our history and culture. A large portion of the land has been bulldozed, with much more destruction to come if this project moves forward. The military has no plans to stop the desecration and has lied to the community about following its obligation to practice cultural sensitivity.

We send this urgent message to you and respectfully request that you immediately write to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and invoke Stipulation 13 of the Programmatic Agreement objecting to further action at these sites due to inadequate background research, the desecration of our ancestral burials, and the permanent destruction of our land, endangered species, and invaluable resources. We hope that you and your office have been able to monitor these activities closely and also request that you provide the public with any updates on this destruction and as well as the status of your request to the ACHP moving forward.

We continue to stress that of the 5 options assessed for the Marine Live Fire Training Range Complex, Tailålo' (Northwest Field) was determined to be the worst choice for our community. Studies that form the development of the military's supplemental environmental impact statement that assessed the feasibility of Tailålo' concluded that Tailålo' was "not considered a reasonable alternative." Both the study itself and the Guam Historic Preservation Office determined Tailålo' to be the most harmful choice.

Our community looks to you now. We value the role of the SHPO as the caretaker and protector of our heritage and we humbly implore you to act within your authority. We sincerely appreciate your immediate response. Un Dangkulo' na Si Yu'os Ma'åse'.

Ginen Ginéflamen, With Much Respect,

Prutehi Litekyan: Save Ritidian

Prutehi Litekyan: Save Ritidian, a direct action group dedicated to the protection of natural and cultural resources in all sites identified for DOD live-fire training on Guam, opposes the establishment of any military firing range, stands in solidarity with Guardians of Gani', PaganWatch, Tinian Women's Association, and Alternative Zero Coalition by preventing environmental degradation and destruction on sacred and native lands, and promotes the continued pursuit for return of ancestral lands.